Washburn-Wilson Seed Company

Moscow, Idaho

Growers of

Seed Peas and Seed Beans

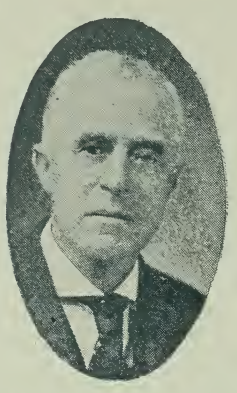
Just a little message to tell you

Who we are

Where we are

What we do and

How we do it



M. E. Washburn

Mr. Washburn, one of the founders and first President of the firm.

H. N. Wilson

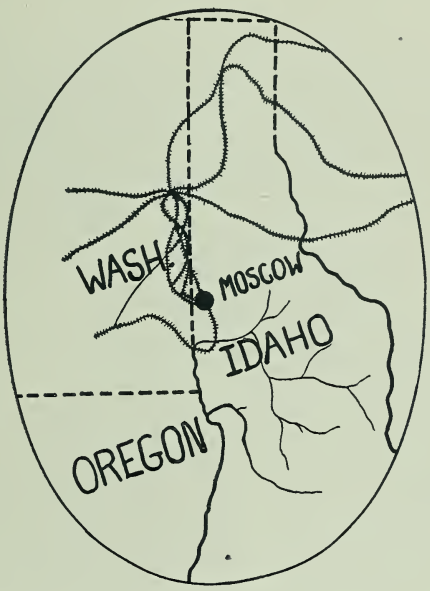
Mr. Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer and General Manager.

F. L. Kennard

Mr. Kennard became a member of the firm in 1919. He graduated from the South Dakota State College in 1906. He was connected with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in charge of Agronomy work at Amarillo, Texas, for four years. Later he took charge of the Agronomy Department at the University of Idaho. After four years work in this capacity he was called to the Minnesota Experiment Station and was placed in charge of Agronomy experiments at the Crookston substation for three years. Mr. Kennard continued his professional career, as county agricultural agent in Whitman County, Washington, until he entered the firm, which he now represents as President.

R. K. Bonnett

Mr. Bonnett joined the firm the past year. He is a graduate from the Kansas State Agricultural College and holds an advanced degree from the University of Wisconsin. Mr. Bonnett was assistant agronomist at the Kansas Experiment Station for five years and was then called to the Idaho Experiment Station to take charge of the Agronomy Department, remaining in this capacity for nearly six years.

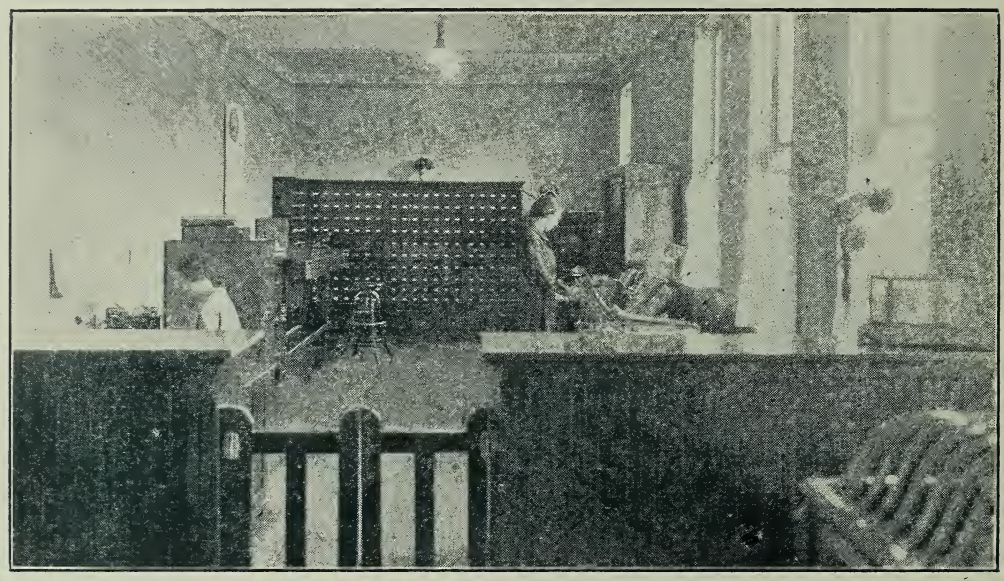


We are growers of seed peas and beans in the non-irrigated section of northern Idaho and eastern Washington. Our principal place of business is at Moscow, Idaho, which is located about the center of the territory known as the Inland Empire or Palouse country. Moscow is a city of 5000 population, the home of the State University and Agricultural Experiment Station. The Northern Pacific, Union Pacific, and Spokane and Inland Empire Electric railroad have lines into Moscow, thus furnishing us an outlet in all directions.

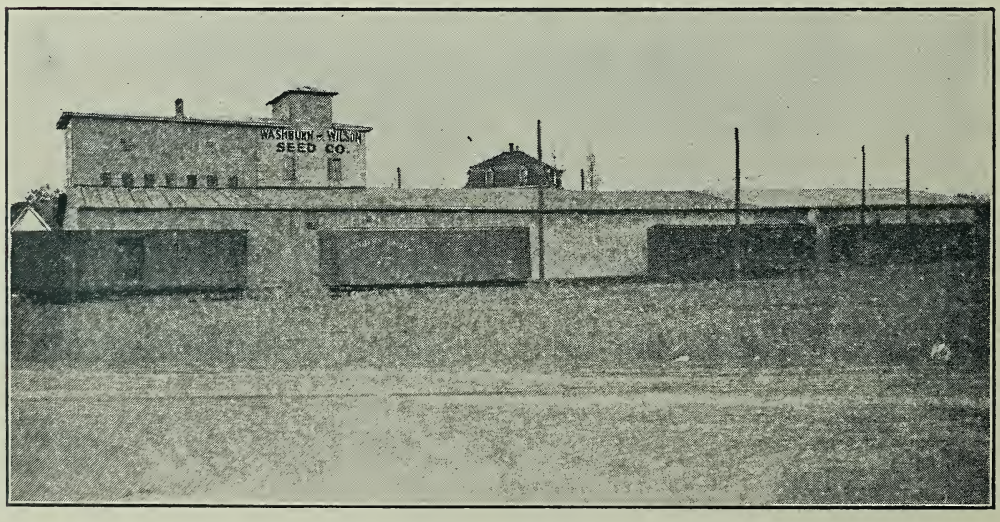
Wheat growing has been the principal agricultural enterprise in this section for many years. Due to the light rainfall, the summerfallow system of wheat growing is used for the storage of moisture. Peas and beans are grown on this fallow land, thus permitting diversification and soil improvement.

Within a radius of 60 miles of Moscow, the elevation ranges from 700 to 3500 feet. The soil thruout this area is a very productive loam with a deep silty clay subsoil. In the cut-over areas that formerly grew coniferous timber, the soils are lighter in texture.

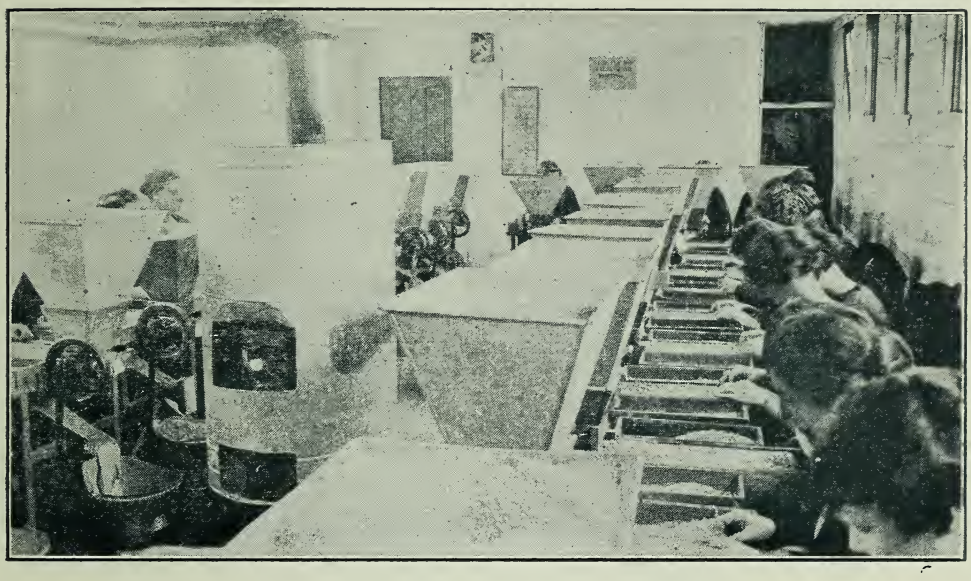
The topography of this area is rolling and mountainous in character. While the average annual precipitation at Moscow is slightly more than 20 inches, seasonal variations of 15 to 25 inches are experienced. The greater part of this rainfall occurs during the winter and is stored in the subsoil for use during the following crop season. Very little rain falls from July until October, so that all seed crops mature under favorable conditions.



Clerical Department



Principal Warehouse



One of Our Hand-Picking Rooms

A Part of Our Picking Force and Milling Crew

HARVESTING A FIELD OF ALASKA SEED PEAS

Growing Seed Peas

On the heavier types of soil at elevations of 2000 to 3500 feet, all varieties of smooth and wrinkled peas produce good yields. The average acre yield of smooth varieties is from 20 to 25 bushels, while the wrinkled varieties vary from 10 to 15 bushels. As farming operations are conducted on a large scale, fields that would otherwise be fallowed are sown to peas. These seed growers maintain their own harvesting and threshing equipment and are able to care for their crops at the proper time.

We maintain a trial garden so that different strains of peas may be tested for trueness to type, canning quality, and yield, from which are taken the best for increase. These increase plots are grown under the supervision of our field men and are rogued to a uniform type. They are then increased from year to year until sufficient seed is secured to plant our fields from which distribution is made.

Our warehouses are equipped to prepare our seed in the best manner possible. All stocks are double milled and hand-picked and are then polished before bagging.

KENTUCKY WONDER BEAN CROP

The Production of Seed Beans

Our seed beans are grown on the lighter soils at the edge of the Palouse and on the cut-over lands. The deep ravines leading down from the mountains in these regions give protection from frost during the growing season by furnishing excellent air drainage. This air drainage is the principal factor determining the length of the growing season. Most seed fields are planted the latter part of May and early June and are ready to harvest in September, before the fall rains set in. The crop is cut and cured in the shock and then stacked, threshing later in the fall. This stacking of the crop improves the color and general quality.

This section is very favorable for the growth of seed beans as the insect pests and diseases found in older sections are almost unknown. The seed is very hardy and of high germination because of the favorable climatic conditions. Owing to the light rainfall during the period of growth and harvest, the seed product is bright, clean, and of uniform color.

All of our seed is grown under the direct supervision of Mr. Kennard and Mr. Bonnett, who have given many years of attention and study to the production of seed crops.

Our plant for milling, hand-picking, and polishing is fully equipped with modern machinery. We are making an honest effort to deliver to you seed of the highest quality.